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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

MADRAS CURTAINS.

THE present fancy in curtains is for the various styles, qualities and patterns that come under the general head of "Madras" goods.

While the more minute distinctions in the many sorts of fabric that are shown under this name are not as a rule very closely noticed, it may be interesting to the inexperienced dealer or the consumer to be able to distinguish between them.

Madras proper has a ground that is known as "leno" weave. This is a twisted thread stuff, the term leno being used to designate the fabric that is made by winding the warp and filling threads around each other, somewhat as the strands of a rope are wound, giving a firmness, strength and elasticity to the material not found in the plain one and one weave of some of the other textiles that are used for drapery purposes. The goods known as crete is often called Madras. Both have the woven and trimmed figures, and the same patterns and colors appear in each, but the crete has a ground similar in weave to what was of old called "pine apple grenadine," save that it is much heavier.

Another style of goods, also known as Madras, has the crepe cloth ground, and is somewhat heavier in texture and general character than either of those already mentioned.

The novelties in this class of goods are especially attractive. They are in great demand for country houses and villas, and in cities where much dust and smoke prevails they are fast taking the place of other styles for rooms in ordinary use. Indeed for the libraries, dining-rooms and many of the chambers in less pretentious dwellings they are preferred to white draperies on account of the more cosy effect and less danger of being soiled by constant use. It seems to be the general impression that these curtains cannot be cleaned. How such an erroneous idea ever came to prevail cannot be explained, as with even the most ordinary care the regular laundress may do them up so as to look almost as good as new, while from the hands of the professional cleaner they come with all of the beauty of newness upon them.

The new patterns are deserving of special comment. They range in size of figure from the tiniest sprays to designs that will admit of but two or three repetitions upon a fifty-inch wide curtain. Nearly all sizes have a straight, clearly defined border, a very deep dado and a fanciful arrangement, mostly in detached figures, in either the crepe, Madras or crete grounds. Infinite variety is seen in the patterns, the most desirable being selected from the flora, and many of them being in vine arrangements.

Among the choice designs in detached patterns are roses with leaves, fleur de lis, fruit of various sorts, some heraldic suggestions and numbers of bouquet figures, several blooms being clustered in a posy, the natural tints being reproduced with remarkable fidelity to nature. An effect of fern leaves in vine form is one of the specially worthy productions, and another that suggests a series of coral branches. A very excellent stained glass design is among the new importations. The dado is very rich in color and the usual leaded effect is produced by heavy lines woven at intervals in the fabric.

Some of the new crepe Madras goods have fine tinsel in the tiniest flecks, but this is not regarded as in any sense a novelty, it having appeared last season. The arrangement of the metal is somewhat novel, and for this and for the exquisite combination and blending of the many tints the new goods are worthy of the highest praise.

The favorite colors are of a somewhat subdued order. Brown in almost every shade, the entire range of olive, myrtle and sage greens, copper, mandarin and every shade of yellow, a very little light blue, dashes of red mostly verging on garnet, rosewood and maroon, old rose, or faded rose as it is called, brick color, and all of the variations of these shades are found in the best assortments of these goods that are now coming from foreign looms.

Combinations of colors are more than ever artistic. Brick red is united with white or an olive ground, or upon a lighter

shade of the same red. Seal brown and copper red are upon a ground of wood color. Olive and rosewood shades have a ground of greenish ecru. White grounds show figures in pale pink and light blue, with white outlines, also various tints of red, blue, olive, brown and yellow. Sulphur and mandarin orange figures are seen upon white grounds and vice versa. Narrower curtains are coming out in various popular patterns. Some of these have a single border, which is a departure in Madras goods; they are pretty and effective. Sash and vestibule curtains are among the new ideas. They match the full sized window draperies in color and pattern and are in great demand.

An entire novelty is called "Mandalay stripe." The goods is a rather open meshed etamine stuff, with thick stripes woven through it lengthwise. The material has a fine silky appearance, the net work especially being quite like the higher grade silk fabrics in general effect. The cost of these is but the merest trifle compared with the goods they so strikingly resemble. They come in all pale colors and are very Eastern in design and tint. A charming novelty is a fine scrim or etamine fabric, with wide bands of fine silk woven in quaint eight century Celtic designs. Some of these bands are eight to ten inches wide, and the etamine is of exquisite quality.

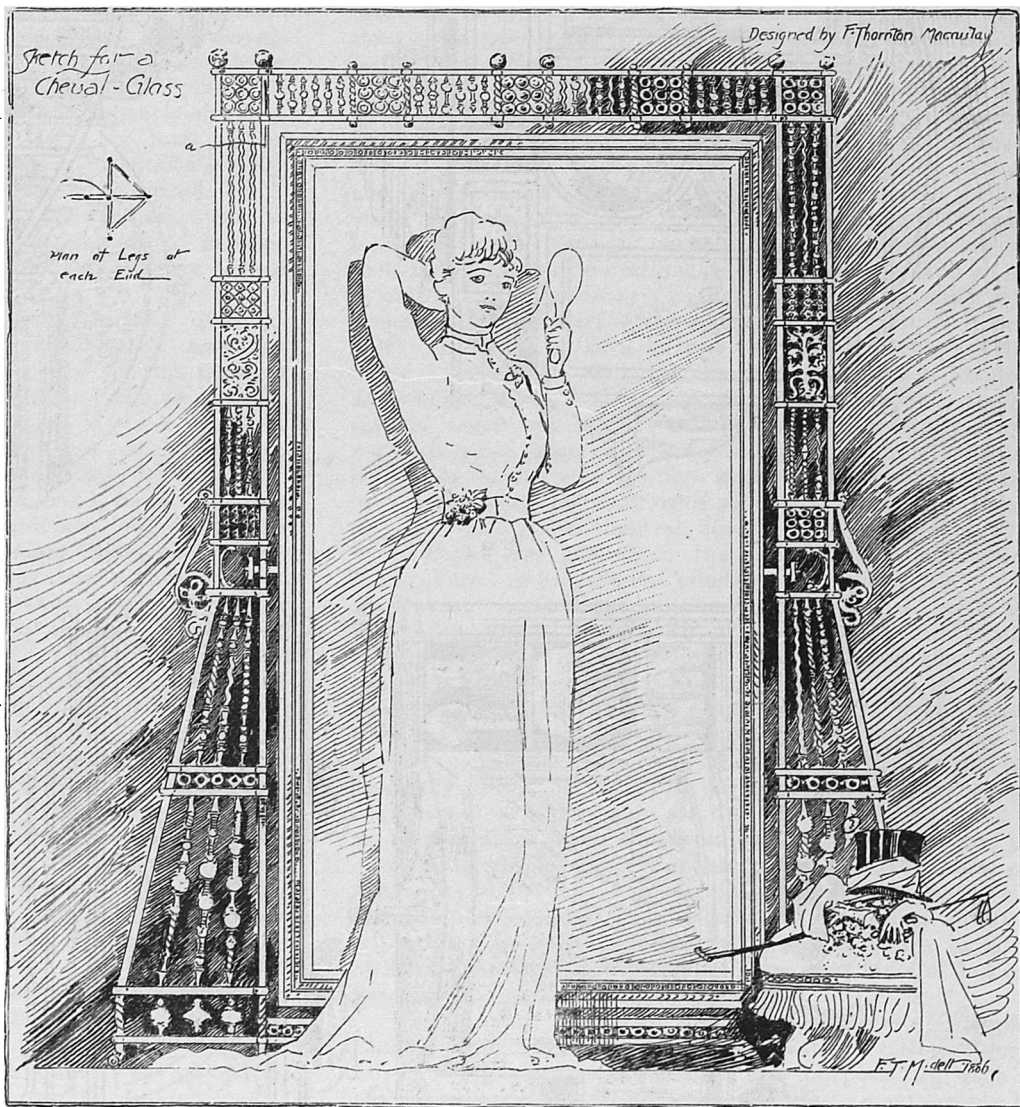
A new fifty-inch all silk grenadine curtain stuff in fancy weave is attracting deserved attention. It is shown in all colors, the gold and ecru tints being the most desirable.

Silk brocading in Madras weave on scrim and grenadine ground is shown in all popular colors and patterns.

Among the novelties in smaller articles are various tidies and scarfs; in the latter especially are some very pretty styles for dressing-case use. They are similar to the etamine ground Irish brocade fabrics for curtains, and match them in pattern and color. Plush tidies and table scarfs are also shown. They have tinsel-wrought lace borders or woven knotted fringe, and are durable and stylish and are not expensive considering their quality.

For information thanks are due to Wm. Robertson, N. Y.

THE success of the recently established Evening Modeling Class at the Art Students' League has led to the formation of an Afternoon Class, to meet daily from 4.30 to 6.30, under the direction of Mr. George T. Brewster, the instructor of the Evening Class.



CHEVAL GLASS.

Whitewood frame, with gilded moldings. The supporting framework is of brass, except that the standards and struts below the centre line of mirror are of iron (fire gilt). Spindles of constantly varied patterns. The small square panels are filled with colored knob lights or jeweled glass. The supporting truss has three legs, as shown in the sketch plan. In the design shown the effort has been made to avoid the clumsiness and heavy appearance of cheval glasses as ordinarily made.